

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 7-9 and 11-13 remain pending in the present application. Claims 5, 6, 10 and 14 have been cancelled.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claim 5 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Examiner's position is that the communication network adjusts the sound characteristic even though the first voice signal has **already** been transmitted. Applicants do not believe this is a correct interpretation of pending Claim 1.

As discussed with the Examiner, the order of the elements in the claim does not signify or claim a specific order of events. Claim 1 defines a terminal that transmits a first voice message; a server that recognizes the first voice signal received; and wherein the terminal includes means for adjusting a sound characteristic of the network **prior to** providing communication from the terminal to the server. Thus, Claim 1 makes it clear that the adjusting of the sound characteristic is done **prior to** providing the communication or transmittal of the first voice signal.

Referring to Figure 4 and the specification beginning on page 9, line 14, the terminal transmits a first voice signal to the server (just after step S6). The voice recognition server recognizes the first voice signal received from the terminal (step T4).

Prior to the above, the terminal adjusts a sound characteristic of the network prior to providing communication of the inputted voice to the server. The means for adjusting the sound characteristic is illustrated as step S5 which adjusts the sound characteristic using the information from T1, T2, S3, S4 and T3. This adjusted sound characteristic is memorized at S6 and is then used to adjust the input voice.

Thus, Applicants believe that Claims 1-4 partially point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claims 5 and 6 have been cancelled. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 10 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fumiaki Sato (JP 2000-286762), for reasons already given in the JPO Office Action of 11/30/2005. Claims 10 and 14 have been cancelled. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 7-9 and 11-13 are allowed over the prior art of record.

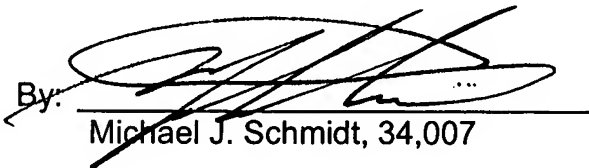
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office

Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 23, 2007

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